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(h) why was not the matter ordered to be enquired into by an independent and disinterested authority such as the Collector or the Deputy Collector;

(i) who has been appointed as Special Officer after dissolution and on whose recommendation; and

(j) whether it is a fact that ordinarily men in regular service are taken for such offices instead of retired men?

A.—(a) The panchayat board was superseded and not dissolved. The grounds for supersession are set forth in G.O. No. 1473, L. & M., dated 12th April 1933, copy [a] of which is placed on the table.

(b) & (c) On receipt of several petitions from certain members of the panchayat board regarding the maladministration of the panchayat and serious irregularities on the part of the president and his supporters, Government caused an enquiry to be made by the President, District Board, Salem, and on his report took further action which the situation demanded.

(d) Government have received representations alleging that the enquiry conducted by the president of the district board was vitiated by personal bias.

(e) Yes.

(f) Government are not aware of the fact.

(g) Copies [b] of the proceedings of the panchayat board, the taluk board and the district board are placed on the table.

(h) Government did not think that such a course was necessary.

(i) Mr. S. Ramachandra Ayyar, retired Revenue Inspector, was appointed as special officer on the recommendation of the president, district board.

(j) Not necessarily; the most suitable man available is selected for the post.

Alleged irregularities in the administration of the Tanjore Municipality.

* 63 Q.—Mr. V. T. Arasu: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Councillors of the Tanjore Municipality have submitted a memorial to the Government in January or February last alleging certain grave irregularities in the administration of that municipality;

(b) whether the Government have directed the Collector of Tanjore to investigate into the same; and

(c) if so, whether they will place the report submitted by the Collector to the Government on the table of the House?

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 237 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix II on pages 238—241 infra.

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A.—(*a*) Government received a petition early in March last from certain councillors and other citizens of the municipality alleging certain irregularities in the municipal administration.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Collector was asked to make a detailed enquiry, only if, after obtaining the Chairman's remarks on the allegations, the Collector was convinced of the truth of at least some of the allegations. Government were satisfied on the report of the Collector, after a preliminary enquiry, that sufficient grounds did not exist for a detailed investigation. They see no need to place this report of the Collector on the table of the house.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" May I know, Sir, whether we are to take it that the word of the Chairman is to be the last word on the subject. I am asking with reference to clauses (*b*) and (*c*)? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The Collector on his own enquiries satisfied himself that the allegations are not well founded and Government considered that sufficient grounds did not exist for a detailed investigation."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Is it not clear from the answer that the Collector has not made any enquiry except to ask for some opinion from the Chairman and that he is precluded by the order of the Government from making any investigation? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" He had been asked to make an enquiry if he was satisfied that there was a case for such an enquiry. He has reported to the Government that in his opinion there is no necessity for an enquiry, and the enquiry has been dropped."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" Is it not clear from the answer that the Collector is asked not to make any enquiry unless he is satisfied from the Chairman's remarks alone that there is ground for investigation, that he called for the remarks of the Chairman alone and that there has been no investigation at all? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" It is for him to decide whether investigation is necessary. The Collector will be in possession of the facts of the case in order to satisfy himself as to whether there should be an enquiry."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know, Sir, what the nature is of the grave irregularities complained of? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I am afraid I must ask for notice if I am to give a list of all the allegations."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—" The opinion of the Chairman and that of the Collector thereon conclude the matter, I take it. Is it so? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The Collector reported to the Government that there is no case for an enquiry."